

Song of the Needle



Let's Sew a Fine Seam

By MARY BROOKS PICKEN

All my life, as a student, as a teacher, as a writer, I have worked with women. Especially have I sought to find the greatest common denominator of their interests. And I think I have found it in the almost universal desire for self-expression.

For many years I directed the work of the largest educational institution in the world engaged in teaching women in the home. During a period of nine years, actually five percent of all the

women in the United States wrote to us seeking help. For a time I was in almost constant contact with nearly a quarter of a million women and girls. My daily mail was a revelation of their hopes and ambitions. They wanted to express their desire to be attractive, and they found the way in the needle and in the use of beautiful fabrics.

Sometimes we hear discussions as to whether women dress themselves for men or for other women. I believe that

neither of these reasons is important. I believe that women dress themselves for the soul-satisfaction they find in expressing beauty.

Some women can paint beautiful pictures, some can write beautiful poetry or prose, some have a talent for music. Only a few are creative in these fields. But the needle provides a common language which is given to us all to use and enjoy.